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Reconsideration
3-28-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gordon F. Grigor et. al.

Examiner: K. Nguyen

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Docket No: 0100.01117

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONFIGURING MULTIPLE DISPLAYS

Technology Center 2600

ASSOCIATED WITH A COMPUTING SYSTEM

February 28, 2002

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks,
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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, U.S. Patent &
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2/28/02
Date

Timothy J. Bechen

REMARKS

In response to non-final Office Action mailed November 30, 2001, Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 24, 29-33 and 38-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of US Patent No. 5,874,928 (Kou) in view of US Patent No. 5,559,525 (Zenda). Kou teaches a display controller for driving a plurality of displays wherein the displays are independently refreshed. Kou provides the ability to simultaneously drive two displays by converting the image data into different data types to drive the multiple displays. Zenda teaches a flat panel display control system that allows switching between a first and a second graphics subsystem.

Regarding claims 24 and 29-33, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Zenda and Kou fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, it is submitted that Zenda fails to teach or suggest a coupling controller of the processing unit which is caused by programming instructions to (a) receive display preferences regarding at least one of the multiple displays. Zenda teaches that in the preferred embodiment, one display is an LCD and the other display as a CRT display, but does not teach or suggest receiving display preferences. Furthermore, Zenda fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, to "(b) determine whether the display preferences can be fulfilled in observance of at least one: configuration properties of the at least one of the multiple displays and configuration properties of a computing system, the

coupling controller determining whether a current configuration of the multiple displays to the computing system can be reconfigured such that display preferences can be fulfilled while maintain effective configuration of the current configuration when the display preferences cannot be fulfilled; and (c) configure the computing system and the at least one of the multiple displays in accordance with the display preferences when the display preferences can be fulfilled, and reconfigure operable coupling of the multiple displays to the computing system such that the at least one of the multiple displays is configured in accordance with the display preferences when the current configuration can be reconfigured.” As stated above, Zenda teaches, *inter alia*, a system having the capabilities of adjusting between the first graphics subsystem and the second graphics subsystem. Zenda does not, nor does it need to, determine whether display preference can be fulfilled because Zenda determines the graphic subsystem for output based on the level of the FEASEN signal. Furthermore, Applicants submit the Examiner has failed to provide the requisite support for the rejection of claims 24, 29-32 as the Examiner has not supported where Zenda teaches or suggests the further limitations of “the memory storing further programming instructions: that cause...” Moreover, claims 29-32 contain further patentable subject matter neither taught nor suggested by Kou or Zenda. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above-noted rejection. Should the Examiner maintain the present rejection, Applicants require an explicit showing, including column and line numbers, of where all of the claimed limitations of claims 24 and 29-32 are explicitly taught by Kou and Zenda.

Regarding claims 33 and 38-41, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion that Kou teaches a computer system that inherently includes a digital storage medium for storing the programming instructions of claim 33. Regarding the claimed first means, second means, third means and fourth means, Applicants re-assert the above position set forth regarding claims 24 and 29-32. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit the rejection of claims 33 and 38-41 is improper as the Examiner has failed to provide the requisite support for the claimed limitations. Furthermore, claims 38-41 contain further patentable subject matter in view of the Kou and Zenda. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above-noted rejection. Should the Examiner maintain the present rejection, Applicants require an explicit showing, including column and line numbers, of where all of the claimed limitations of claims 33 and 38-41 are explicitly taught by Kou and Zenda.

whereas the claimed invention provides for a plurality of displays. Furthermore, the Examiner has improperly rejected these claims as the Examiner has improperly asserted the standard for a 35 USC §103 rejection. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal. Should the Examiner maintain the present rejection, Applicants require an explicit showing, including column and line numbers, of where all of the claimed limitations of claims 49-55 are explicitly taught by Kou and Zenda.

Claims 24, 29-33 and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,361,078 (*Caine*). *Caine* discloses a display system that uses information from a host computer for display on a wall of video screens. Each screen displays a portion of an image. The system is comprised of a plurality of video channels, each channel driving a display. Each video channel is further comprised of a video driver connected to memory dedicated to that particular video channel. A status register is used to select a multiplexor (see col. 3, lines 1-4) to select an overlay color for the video drivers (see col. 3, lines 37-39) and to control the number of images stored, how they are sequenced and whether the information displayed on the screen relates from screen to screen (see col. 6, lines 16-21).

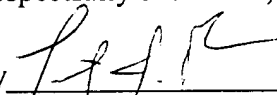
The Examiner contends that the status register of *Caine* corresponds to the coupling controller of the present invention. However, the status register of *Caine* is not coupled to a coupling module for controlling which screen memory is coupled to which display driver or display controller. In fact, since the video drivers and video memory of *Caine* comprise a video channel that is dedicated to one display, it is not possible for the status register in *Caine* to have the same structure or perform the same tasks as the coupling controller of the present invention. Even if it is assumed that the status register of *Caine* corresponds to the coupling controller of the present invention, *Caine* does not have any structure that corresponds to the coupling module of the present invention. In fact, there cannot be any corresponding structure in *Caine* since each video channel is dedicated to a particular display.

Furthermore, regarding claims 24 and 29-32, the Examiner has failed to provide the requisite support for the claimed limitations of not only the operations of the coupling controller but also “the memory storing further programming instructions: that cause...” Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion regarding the teachings *Caine*. Furthermore,

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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